(d) The major terms and conditions are:

(i) The concession period and Toll Rates are fixed before bidding

(ii) Bidders quoting the minimum grant or maximum negative grant is awarded the concession

(iii) The grant is limited to maximum 40% of the Project Cost.

(e) The Negative Grant is payable to National Highways Authority of India as per the quotation in the Bid of the successful bidder.

Target fixed for road construction

1222. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the year 2004-05 for the construction work-either in the form of widening, strengthening or improving of highways and construction and rehabilitation of bridges and bypasses;

(b) the extent to which this target was achieved;

(c) in case the achievement has fallen short of target, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The targets fixed for the year 2004-05 for the construction works and the extent to which these targets have been achieved are given in Statement-I *(See below)*

(c) The reasons for shortfalls are given in Statement-II *(See below)*.

(d) The Government is concerned with the shortfalls and following steps are being taken to make up the shortfalls during the coming year:

(i) Regular monitoring of financial and physical performance of works at the highest levels.

(ii) Timely award of contracts.

(iii) Discouraging the practice of granting time extensions to contractors.

(iv) Award of bonus to contractors for completing works before the target date of completion.

(v) Not to sanction any new construction work until Land Acquisition is completed.

(vi) The problems relating to Land Acquisition have been simplified by making amendments to NH Act.

(vii) Ministry insists on Schedule of Rates being updated regularly.

(viii) The works sanctioned by the Ministry are cancelled if these are not started within the stipulated time.

Statement-I

Targets and achievements of various schemes during the year 2004-2005

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Target	Achievement	%Achievement
1.	Widening to two lanes (Kms.)	832	719	86.4
2.	Widening to four lanes (Kms.)	2945	2386	81.0
3.	Strengthening of existing weak pavement (Kms.)	3536	2981	84.3
4.	Improvement of low grade section (Kms.)	24	42	175.0
5.	Improvement of riding quality programme (IRQP) (Kms.)	3210	3134	97.6
6.	Rehabilitation/Construction of Bridge (Nos.)	232	105	45.3
7.	Construction of Bypasses (Nos.)	12	5	41.7

Statement-II

The general reasons due to which the target could not be achieved

(i) The newly sanctioned works could not be awarded due to enforcement of model Code of Conduct due to the General Elections, during the early part of the year 2004.

(ii) Most of the new sanctions were withheld for want of clarifications from State Governments on overloading issue.

(iii) Due to prolonged and heavy rains in some States and insurgency problem especially in the North-East region, the progress of works was adversely affected.

(iv) Due to shortage of bitumen and aggregates at different times, the desired progress of works could not be achieved.

(v) The targets could not be achieved due to delays in Land Acquisition and shifting of utilities in some road projects and hardy implementation by contractors as well.

(vi) In some projects, the overall progress was also affected due to change in scope of work at an advanced stage.

Performance of road contractors

1223. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been poor performance by certain contractors in the laying of roads by National Highways Authority of India;

(b) if so, the action that has been taken against those contractors; and

(c) the mechanism that has been worked out to ensure proper performance and timely completion of work by contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven contracts have been terminated and seventeen contractors have been declared as "non-performers" and debarred from biding in future contracts of NHAI.

(c) The steps taken to expedite the work are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to expedite the completion of the Projects under Execution by National Highways Authority of India

(i) The contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants/Independent Engineers, Project Directors, National Highways Authority of India officials at Headquarters.

(ii) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc.

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-Ministerial and Central-States issues such as land acquisition,